

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00641 172351Z
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
ALL OTHER AMCONSULS CANADA

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0641

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, CA
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON - PRESS ROUNDUP NO. 2

REF: OTTAWA 607

1. PRESS CONTINUES TO PAY MODERATE ATTENTION TO TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON. GLOBE AND MAIL ON FEBRUARY 17 REPORTED ON PAGE 8 TRUDEAU COMMENTS ON HIS EXPECTATIONS FOR VISIT. OCCASION WAS ADDRESS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN IAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE. ALTHOUGH ADDRESS ALSO COVERED OTHER SUBJCTS, GLOBE AND MAIL HEADLINED "TRUDEAU EXPECTS EVEN CLOSER RELATIONS WITH U.S."

2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, TRUDEAU SAID HE BASED HIS EXPECTATIONS ON FACT THAT "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS ALREADY SHOWN SIGNS OF TAKING FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES THAT CANADA WOULD FAVOR". EXAMPLES OF THIS ARE THE "SLIGHT THAW" IN RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND THE "DESIRE TO HALT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS".

3. APPARENTLY, TRUDEAU WAS ALSO ASKED " . . . WHETHER THE U.S. SOMETIMES THINKS OF CANADA AS A LITTLE BROTHER". HE AGREED WITH THE OBSERVATION, BUT DEFENDED IT BY
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SAYING, "WE HAVE A SINGLE FRONTIER WITH THE MOST POWERFUL NATION OF ALL TIMES....IT IS NATURAL THAT AFTER 150 YEARS OF PEACE THAT THEY TAKE THIS LITTLE BROTHER.... FOR GRANTED". HE ALSO WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT PROBLEMS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RESOLVED AMICABLY.

4. OTTAWA JOURNAL ON FEBRUARY 16 HAD LEAD EDITORIAL

ENTITLED, "MR. TRUDEAU'S U.S. VISIT: NO INSTANT CLARITY ON ENERGY". EDITORIAL FOCUSES ON PIPELINE ISSUES AND POINTS OUT THAT CANADA HAS TO RESOLVE MANY PROBLEMS BEFORE MAKING DECISION ON A GAS PIPELINE. HOWEVER, EDITORIAL URGES TRUDEAU TO MAKE "... DISCREET BUT POINTED INQUIRIES ABOUT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO CONSERVE NATURAL GAS IN THE FUTURE". IT CONCLUDES BY URGING BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP ENERGY POLICIES.

5. FINALLY, TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S GEOFFREY STEVENS AGAIN COMMENTS ON VISIT, REVIEWS PAST IRRITANTS BUT MENTIONS THAT TWO REMAIN: BOUNDARY ISSUES AND THE PIPELINE. HE CHARACTERIZES RELATONSHIP AS "UNIQUE" AND CONCLUDES, "MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, IT IS NOT A BAD IDEA TO REVISE TERMINOLOGY FROM TIME TO TIME. RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES DO SEEM RATHER LESS IRRITABLE THAN THEY HAVE FOR QUITE SOME TIME."
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